lings and basal shoots from a single crown, the tallest sapling being about seven feet high, and is growing in a dense carpet of *Polytrichum commune* L. var. *perigonale* (Michx.) Bryol. Eur.

The old field, which was under cultivation apparently about fifteen years ago, is typical of many of the abandoned fields in this region. It is on the edge of a thick forest at the border of which is a dense stand of *B. populifolia.* A number of shrubs and young trees are scattered over the field, consisting mainly of *B. populifolia, Cornus Amomum, Quercus velutina, Q. alba, Populus tremuloides, Spiraea tomentosa* and *Prunus* sp. The most abundant herbaceous species found in the immediate vicinity of *B. populifolia* var. *laciniata* are *Lechea villosa, Helianthemum canadense, Festuca ovina, Aster vimineus, Solidago canadensis, S. rugosa, S. nemoralis, Phleum pratense, Gnaphalium obtusifolium, Aster cordifolius, Andropogon scoparius* and *Panicum* spp.

Variety *laciniata* is similar to the typical form of *B. populifolia* except for its deeply incised-laciniate leaves. The leaves, which are deltoid-ovate in outline, are truncate to broadly cuneate at the base and are deeply cut (to about two-thirds of the distance to the midrib) into three to seven lobes. The lobes are long-attenuate at the apex and are sharply and irregularly serrate-laciniate on the margins.

Variety *laciniata* has been known from cultivation since it was originally described in 1838, and perhaps before that time. However, so far as I know, it has never been reported as growing in the wild state. It is doubtless a mutation and should be looked for in nature.

Specimens from the above two stations have been placed in the Gray Herbarium and the Duke University Herbarium.

Botanical Museum, Harvard University.

The Scarcity of pink-flowered Gentiana Porphyrio.—In Bull. Torr. Bot. Club, lxviii. 662 (1941), arguing that the name *Gentiana Porphyrio* J. F. Gmelin, substitute for *G. purpurea* Walter, is rightly applied to the plant which commonly has deep azure-blue corollas, the plant I had called *G. Stoneana,* Dr. R. T. Clausen said "The most notable variation is in the color of the

flowers. These vary from deep blue to pink. I have seen the pink phase in the garden of Mrs. J. N. Henry, Gladwyne, Pennsylvania. These plants came originally from near Wilmington, North Carolina." From this phrase one might, with good reason, infer that its author knew "plants" with pink corollas. Consequently, yielding to Dr. Clausen's persuasion, I referred in Rhodora, xliv. 151 (1942), to "The discovery by Mrs. J. Norman Henry near Wilmington, North Carolina, as reported by Dr. R. T. Clausen in Bull. Torr. Bot. Cl. lxviii. 662 (1941), of pink-flowered plants growing with the typical azure-flowered plant."

Mrs. Henry, however, writing on May 21, 1942, corrects a misunderstanding.

"The fact is as follows:

In 1938 I ran across a large area that was dotted liberally with *Gentiana porphyrio*—the common blue type. As is my custom on finding a large group of any plant, I began to search for an albino. I had no luck with the pure white but I did find the pink . . . A long and careful search [any one knowing Mrs. Henry can be sure that the search was a thorough one] revealed that this was the only one of its color. There were no intermediate shades.

The plant was a young one with but one slender flower-stalk. I think its age could not have been more than three years. It has been growing in a pot in a cold frame ever since. This spring [1942] it had nine stems capable of flowering, so I ventured to divide it in two. I am glad to say that both plants are now thriving, one in a pot and one outside."

It is evident that I was in error in referring to Mrs. Henry's having found "plants" with pink flowers.—M. L. Fernald.

MISINTERPRETATION OF ATLANTIC COASTAL PLAIN SPECIES

M. L. Fernald

The Atlantic Coastal Plain of the United States, with its western extension, the Gulf Coastal Plain and its Mississippi Embayment, forms one of the most natural biogeographic areas of the country. Its position and extent are clearly shown in many of my own papers, as, for instance, in Rhodora, xxxiii. 26 (1931). Pennell on some of his published maps clearly outlines it; and it is recognized by W. T. McLaughlin in Ecological Monographs, ii. 339, fig. 1 (1932). It is, of course, definitely